



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/966,700	09/28/2001	Steven G. Smith	BELL-0138/01189	6438
38952	7590	08/23/2005	EXAMINER	
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP ONE LIBERTY PLACE - 46TH FLOOR PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			YANG, LINA	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2665	
DATE MAILED: 08/23/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/966,700

Applicant(s)

SMITH ET AL.

Examiner

Lina Yang

Art Unit

2665

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 September 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 9/28/2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

1. Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 7 and 9 provides for the use of method in claim 1 (8), but, since the claims do not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process applicant is intending to encompass. A claim is indefinite where it merely recites a use without any active, positive steps delimiting how this use is actually practiced.

Claims 7 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use, without setting forth any steps involved in the process, results in an improper definition of a process, i.e., results in a claim which is not a proper process claim under 35 U.S.C. 101. See for example *Ex parte Dunki*, 153 USPQ 678 (Bd.App. 1967) and *Clinical Products, Ltd. v. Brenner*, 255 F. Supp. 131, 149 USPQ 475 (D.D.C. 1966).

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Art Unit: 2665

2. Claims 1-3, 6-7 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by McDowell et al (U. S. Patent No. 6,839,554 B2) in view of Yukie et al. (U. S. Patent Application No. 20030031150 A1).

Regarding claim 1, McDowell teaches a method of sending data from a first computing device (laptop computer 48 in fig. 1) to at least one of a plurality of second computing devices (instant messaging subscriber 30-34 in fig. 1) over a wireless digital packet-switched network (wireless packet data network 44 in fig. 1), the method comprising:

initiating a first application ("sign on" to Instant message service 36, 38 and 40 in fig. 1 col. 1 lines 26-34) on a first computing device including a wireless modem (laptop computer 48 with wireless modem in fig. 1, abstract);

initiating a second application ("send instant message" col. 1 lines 26-34) on the first computing device, the second application enabling data to be sent from the first computing device to the at least one of the plurality of second computing devices (any alive instant messaging subscriber 30-34 in fig. 1) over a wireless digital packet-switched network (wireless packet data network 44 in fig. 1);

generating data to be sent from the first computing device to the at least one of the plurality of second computing devices, wherein data is generatable from the first application and the second application and is transmitted by way of a wireless modem (col. 1 lines 26-34).

initiating a request to a modem controller for access to the wireless modem; and transmitting the generated data from the first computing device to the second computing device (inherent, when the modem is used to transferring data).

McDowell differs from the claimed invention in that McDowell does not specifically specify that the wireless modem contained the laptop computer 48 in fig. 1 is a wireless digital packet-switched modem. However, the laptop computer 48 is wirelessly accessing a wireless packet data network 44 through the wireless modem, as shown in fig. 1. It is within the level of one skilled in the art to see that a wireless digital packet-switched modem should be used to access the wireless packet data network. For example, Yukie teaches a dual network modem can be used to access wireless packet switched networks ([0005]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to use the wireless digital packet-switched modem, as taught by Yukie in the assembly of McDowell in order to provide faster data transmission.

Regarding claim 2, McDowell further teaches that the first application (sign on) can access a plurality of remote data systems (instant message service 36, 38 and 40 in fig. 1).

Regarding claim 3, McDowell further teaches that the generated data comprises a message ("instant message" col. 1 lines 31-34).

Regarding claim 6, McDowell further teaches that the method further comprising establishing an interactive connection between the first computing device and the second computing device (instant message is interactive) .

Regarding claim 7, McDowell differs from the claimed invention in that McDowell does not specifically specifies a computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method. However, it is with the level of one skilled in the art to implement the method as software or computer program instructions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to store the computer program instructions on a computer readable medium so they are executable on a processor.

Regarding claim 10, McDowell teaches a system for sending data over a wireless digital packet-switched network (wireless packet data network 44 in fig. 1) from a first computing device (laptop computer 48 in fig. 1) to at least one of a plurality of second computing devices (instant messaging subscriber 30-34 in fig. 1), the system comprising: a first computing device (laptop computer 48 in fig. 1) including a wireless modem; and a wireless digital packet-switched network (wireless packet data network 44 in fig. 1); and a computer system comprising at least one of a plurality of second computing devices (computer system contains: instant messaging subscriber 30, 32 and 34 and instant messaging service 36, 38 and 40 in fig. 1).

McDowell differs from the claimed invention in that McDowell does not specifically specify that the wireless modem contained the laptop computer 48 in fig. 1 is a wireless digital packet-switched modem and a modem controller that controls access to the wireless digital packet-switched network. However, the laptop computer 48 is wirelessly accessing a wireless packet data network 44 through the wireless modem, as shown in fig. 1. It is within the level of one skilled in the art to see that a wireless digital packet-switched modem should be used to access the wireless packet data network. For example, Yukie teaches a dual network modem can be used to access wireless packet switched networks ([0005]) and a modem controller that controls access to the wireless digital packet-switched network (330 in fig. 3 and 430 in fig. 4). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to use the wireless digital packet-switched modem, and a modem controller that controls access to the wireless digital packet-switched network as taught by Yukie in the assembly of McDowell in order to provide faster data transmission.

3. Claims 4-5 and 8-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by McDowell et al (U. S. Patent No. 6,839,554 B2) in view of Brown (U. S. Patent Application No. 20030023684 A1).

Regarding claim 4, McDowell differs from the claimed invention in that McDowell does not specifically teach that the message is addressed to a user represented by a user identifier. However, it is well known in the art that a message is addressed to a user

Art Unit: 2665

identifier. For example, Brown teaches that a sending user may provide an user identifier for an intended receiving user ([0049]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to include specifying the message is addressed to a user represented by a user identifier, as taught by Brown in the assembly of McDowell in order to deliver the message.

Regarding claim 5, McDowell differs from the claimed invention in that McDowell does not specifically teaches that the user identifier comprises one of a group of allowed recipients. However, Brown teaches that “user” can refer to individual, group, organization et al ([0048]). Then, a user identifier can be an identifier for an individual or a group. Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to include the user identifier comprises one of a group of allowed recipients, as taught by Brown in the assembly of McDowell in order to deliver the message correctly and efficiently.

Regarding claim 8, McDowell teaches a method of receiving data sent from a first computing device (laptop computer 48 with a wireless modem in fig. 1) to at least one of a plurality of second computing devices (instant messaging subscriber 30-34 in fig. 1), over a wireless digital packet-switched network (wireless packet data network 44 in fig. 1), the method comprising: receiving data ((instant messaging service 36, 38 and 40 in fig. 1 receiving the data) from a messaging application running on a computing device (instant message application running on 48 in fig. 1) over a wireless digital packet-



Art Unit: 2665

switched network (wireless packet data network 44 in fig. 1), while maintaining contact with a remote systems (instant messaging service 36, 38 and 40 in fig. 1) accessing application running on the computing device.

McDowell differs from the claimed invention in that McDowell does not specifically teach determining an intended recipient of the data; forwarding the data to the intended recipient. However, Brown teaches that the message server ("instant message service" node in McDowell) receives the message, determines an intended recipient of the data; forwards the data to the intended recipient ([0069]). Therefore, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art at the time when the invention was made to include determining an intended recipient of the data; forwarding the data to the intended recipient, as taught by Brown in the assembly of McDowell in order to deliver the message.

Regarding claim 9, McDowell differs from the claimed invention in that McDowell does not specifically specifies a computer-readable medium containing computer-executable instructions for performing the method. However, it is with the level of one skilled in the art to implement the method as software or computer program instructions. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill at the time of the invention to store the computer program instructions on a computer readable medium so they are executable on a processor.

Art Unit: 2665

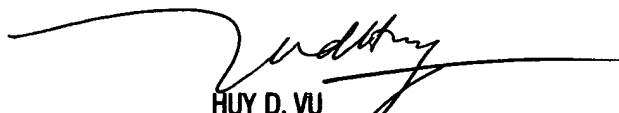
### ***Conclusion***

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lina Yang whose telephone number is (571)272-3151. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30am-6:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Huy Vu can be reached on (571)272-3155. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 517-273-8300..

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LY

  
HUY D. VU  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600